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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
JEAN-PIERRE GLIZE : EXAMINER: LE, U. C. N.
SERIAL NO: 10/009,995 :
FILED: APRIL 25, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2876
FOR: MAN/MACHINE INTERFACE :
METHOD AND DEVICE FOR A TICKET
PROCESSING DEVICE COMPRISING A
MAGNETIC STRIPE

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant appeals the outstanding Final Rejection of October 19, 2004.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in the present application is IER having a place of business at 3, rue Salomon de Rothschild, BP 20, 92156 Suresnes Cedex, France, the Assignee of the present application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, Appellant's legal representative, and the Assignee are not aware of any related pending appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings that may be related to, directly effect, or be directly effected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 14-26 are pending in this application, and each of claims 14-26 is being appealed.

Claims 1-13 were canceled without prejudice during prosecution of the application.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments were filed subsequent to the Final Rejection of October 19, 2004.

A Request for Reconsideration, which did not submit any claim amendments, was filed on January 6, 2005 but was found not to place the application in condition for allowance in the Advisory Action of January 26, 2005.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claims are directed to a man/machine interface method and device for ticket processing including a magnetic read/write station PIL, a thermal printing station TT (specification at page 7, lines 25-27) and a controller or control means UC (specification at page 10, lines 20-26).

The magnetic read/write station writes to a magnetic strip of a configuration ticket at least certain configuration parameters of the ticket processing device to be configured, and visibly prints the configuration parameters on the configuration ticket, corresponding to magnetic inscription of the configuration parameters (specification at page 10, lines 8-12). The configuration ticket is inserted into the processing device to be configured (specification at page 10, lines 14-15). The read/write station PIL reads contents of the magnetic strip of the configuration ticket inserted into the ticket processing device to be configured (specification at page 10, lines 17-18).

Further, the controller or control means UC stores the read configuration parameters, which enables the controller or control means to configure functioning of the ticket processing device with the aid of the stored configuration parameters, and which enables an installer to have the configuration ticket on which the corresponding configuration parameters are visibly printed (specification at page 10, lines 20-26).

Further, the man/machine interface method can capture information relating to activity of the ticket processing device, store the captured information, and print on a statement ticket the stored captured information (specification at page 11, lines 26-34).

The man/machine interface method can further prepare a thermal printing reference ticket TREF3 including at least one printed reference mark REH1, REH2, REV relating to horizontal, vertical framing of thermal printing or to density of a thermal print, insert into a ticket processing device to be adjusted the thermal printing reference ticket TREF3, print at least one reference scale H, V, D on the thermal printing reference ticket TREF3 in relation to the reference mark REH1, REH2, REV, and indicate a value of coincidence between an element of the reference scale H, V, D and the reference mark REH1, REH2, REV (Figure 7 and the specification at page 13, lines 14-32).

The method and device can also prepare a reference ticket TREF4 including a magnetic strip PM extending from transversal edges of the ticket and on the longitudinal side of the ticket, detect, by detecting means DO11, a first transversal edge BAVT of the reference ticket TREF4, write, by writing means TM1, on the magnetic strip PM of the reference ticket TREF4 in a sequence of elementary reference inscriptions SIER, the start of which is delivered before the arrival of the reference ticket TREF4 at the magnetic write station TM1 and including a reference mark RE1, and count, by counting means UC, the number of elementary reference inscriptions SIER written on the magnetic strip PM of the reference ticket TREF4, up to the reference mark RE1, and deduce from that a distance DIDI between

optical detection DO11 of the transversal edge of the ticket and the magnetic inscription TM1 (Figures 8 and 9 and the specification at page 14, line 31 to page 15, line 17; and at page 15, line 31 to page 16, line 19).

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION

The only rejection in the outstanding Office Action is the rejection to each of claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,300,042 to Oldenkamp et al. (herein "Oldenkamp") in view of U.S. patent 6,092,798 to Hiratuka et al. (herein "Hiratuka") and U.S. patent 5,488,223 to Austin et al. (herein "Austin '223").

VII. ARGUMENT

CLAIMS 14-26

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection of claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oldenkamp in view of Hiratuka and Austin is improper.

In the claimed invention, in a machine having a magnetic read/write station, a thermal printing station and a control, a configuration ticket can be prepared, which may have the same format as the ticket normally issued by the machine, and the configuration ticket includes "at least certain configuration parameters of the ticket processing device". Further, configuration parameters can be visibly printed on a same ticket as a ticket normally issued by the machine, and with the creation of the configuration data the visibly printed information on the configuration ticket matches the magnetic information stored in the configuration ticket. Such a ticket can be used to be read by the read/write section of the machine to thereby input configuration information into the machine.

Such a structure can find particular usefulness because ticket processing devices are often installed in various places. Thus, the people servicing such devices normally have to

handle a number of capabilities, ranging from purely mechanical capabilities to having the ability to configure the machine. The present invention makes it possible for persons who may have little or no knowledge about what is necessary to configure the machine to only go to the machine with a "configuration ticket" prepared in advance by personnel specifically trained in configuring such a machine. In that instance such a service person merely has to put the previously prepared configuration ticket into the machine to properly configure the machine as desired. Further, the visibly printed indications on the configuration ticket provide a clear trace of what has been performed by the servicing personnel.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art does not teach or suggest the features in the claims of the configuration ticket including visibly printing information corresponding to the magnetically stored information.

To meet the features of the configuration ticket the Final Office Action of October 19, 2004 cites the teachings in Oldenkamp. In that respect, applicant notes that Oldenkamp discloses the use of a program card that can be used by a key operator or vendor to modify parametric data in a system.¹ However, applicant notes that Oldenkamp does not disclose or suggest that the program card includes visibly printed information corresponding to a magnetic inscription of configuration parameters.

As noted above, one of the benefits in the claimed invention is utilizing visibly printed indications on a configuration ticket to provide a clear trace of what has been performed by a servicing personnel. Oldenkamp does not teach or suggest such features.

To overcome the above-noted deficiency in Oldenkamp the outstanding rejection cites the teachings in Austin '223; the Final Office Action of October 19, 2004 specifically states;

Austin ['233] teaches a user can adjust/reconfigure a printer operating parameters using a command sheet/ticket 136, in which the corresponding data of each encoded configuration parameters barcode 140 is visibly printed (e.g., install,

¹ Oldenkamp at column 4, lines 59-64.

increasing speed, decreasing speed, etc.) (fig. 3B; col. 7, lines 23-40).²

Applicant submits such teachings in Austin '223 have no relevance whatsoever to the device of Oldenkamp.

Austin '223 discloses adjusting printer operating parameters using a command sheet 136. For example, in Austin '223 a user can adjust a print speed, a print head pressure, and a burn time by scanning one of the particular barcodes in Fig. 3B.

Such teachings in Austin '223, however, have no relevance whatsoever to the device of Oldenkamp. More particularly, as noted above Oldenkamp discloses the use of a program card that is to be input into a ticketing system. Oldenkamp is not directed to a device that would utilize any type of barcode system because the device of Oldenkamp inserts the program card into the card device.

If the teachings in Austin '223 were to be combined with the teaching in Oldenkamp, that would at most result in the program card of Oldenkamp being replaced by the command sheet 136 in Austin '223, because that is what Austin '223 discloses. It would not make any sense to take only the isolated teaching of utilizing the visual terms "grade", "model", "speed", "burn time", "pressure", etc. from the command card 136 in Oldenkamp and attempt to utilize such isolated teachings to a program card as in Oldenkamp. Such a proposed modification is non-sensical because the reason Austin '223 prints such terms on the command card 136 is because an operator is scanning the barcodes on the command card 136 and needs to know what he or she is scanning. Such a teaching is completely irrelevant to the device of Oldenkamp in which the program card is inserted into the card machine.

Further, there is no teaching in any cited art to take an isolated teaching of the headings on the command card 136 in Austin '223 and apply such to the completely different type of card as in Oldenkamp. Applicant submits the outstanding rejection is a hindsight

² Office Action of October 19, 2004, the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4.

reconstruction of applicants' invention utilizing isolated and unrelated teachings in the applied art.

Moreover, the teachings in Austin '223 are not even related to the claimed features.

In the claims different configuration parameters are written onto a magnetic strip and are also visibly printed on a ticket. In Austin '223 the different commands on the command card 136 are already printed thereon, and have no relevance whatsoever to a ticket processing device in which information on a magnetic strip is going to be read by a ticketing machine.

Applicant also notes the general structure of the device of Oldenkamp differs significantly from that of the claimed invention. More particularly, Oldenkamp is not directed to a ticket processing device that can include means for reading a magnetic stripe of a card or control means for storing reading data.

Oldenkamp is directed to an apparatus for a vending machine, and particularly for a photocopy machine that can register magnetic data on a magnetic stripe of a magnetic card inserted in an apparatus, which makes it possible to deliver cards having a specific amount, a count number, and a delimiter value that limits the use of the card (for example an expiration date, a department number, a system identification number). Thus, the system of Oldenkamp makes it possible to deliver cards having a predetermined amount to a user, whereas in the background art that Oldenkamp attempts to improve on, it was required that such a delivering of cards be made in a remote factory.

The device in Oldenkamp is not a ticket processing device and is not provided with means for reading a magnetic stripe of a card and control means for storing reading data. The device of Oldenkamp differs significantly from that of the claims. The claimed device is not only capable of producing configuration tickets, but is also capable of reading contents of the configuration ticket and writing on a magnetic stripe of a configuration ticket. Oldenkamp

merely teaches production of a program card but does not teach or suggest how to use such a program card in a ticket processing device.

Moreover, neither Hiratuka nor Austin '223 teach or suggest utilizing a configuration ticket as in the claimed invention, and thus neither Hiratuka nor Austin '223 can overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Oldenkamp.

Moreover, in paragraph 7 of the Final Office Action of October 19, 2004 it is emphasized that Hiratuka teaches a ticket processing device. That statement in the outstanding rejection is not at all clear as to how it pertains to the above-noted arguments against the cited combination of teachings.

Oldenkamp is cited as a primary reference, and applicants submit above that Oldenkamp is not directed to a ticket processing device nor does Oldenkamp have any relevance to a ticket processing device. The fact that Hiratuka is directed to a ticketing issuing apparatus does not change the fact that Oldenkamp has no relevance whatsoever to a ticket processing apparatus. Apparently, the outstanding rejection is suggesting some sort of total and complete modification of Oldenkamp to be directed to a ticket issuing apparatus as in Hiratuka, but that basis for the outstanding rejection is not explained nor understood. It simply does not appear even remotely possible to completely modify the device of Oldenkamp to be directed to a completely different type of ticket issuing apparatus, and the basis for such a complete modification is clearly not at all suggested in the references themselves.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicant respectfully submits no combination of teachings of Oldenkamp in view of Hiratuka and Austin '223 meets each of the limitations of independent claims 14 and 23, and the claims dependent therefrom.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding rejection has not even addressed certain features in the dependent claims, and thereby certain of the dependent claims even further distinguish over the applied art.

CLAIM 16

Dependent claim 16 further requires that the man/machine interface method performs capturing information relating to activity of the ticket processing device, storing the captured information, and printing on the statement ticket the stored captured information. Such operations are clearly neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied art. That is particularly the case as none of the applied art is directed to providing any way of monitoring the activity on a ticket processing device, and thus no applied art reference would have any reason or operation to capture information relating to activity of the ticket processing device, store the captured information, and print the stored captured information on the statement ticket. Thus, dependent claim 16 is believed to further distinguish over the applied art.

Further, applicant notes the outstanding rejection has not even addressed the features in dependent claim 16, and thus the outstanding rejection has not set forth any type of *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to that claimed subject matter.

CLAIM 19

With respect to dependent claim 19, the man/machine interface method recited therein further prepares a thermal printing reference ticket including at least one printed reference mark relating to horizontal, vertical framing of thermal printing or to density of the thermal print, inserts into a ticket processing device to be adjusted the thermal printing reference ticket, prints at least one reference scale on the thermal printing reference ticket in relation to the reference mark, and indicates a value of coincidence between an element of the reference

scale and the reference mark. That subject matter is shown for example in Figure 7 in the present specification. Such claimed features have not even been addressed in the outstanding Final Office Action, and thus clearly the outstanding rejection fails to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to dependent claim 19.

CLAIMS 20 and 26

Dependent claim 20, and similarly dependent claim 26, further recite operations of inserting into a ticket processing device to be adjusted a reference ticket including a magnetic strip extending from transversal edges of the reference ticket and on a longitudinal side of the ticket, detecting a first transversal edge of the reference ticket, writing on the magnetic strip of the reference ticket a sequence of elementary reference inscriptions, a start of which is delivered before arrival of the reference ticket at the magnetic write station and including a reference mark, and counting a number of the written elementary reference inscriptions on the magnetic strip of the reference ticket, up to the reference mark, and deducing from that a distance between optical detection of the transversal edge of the reference ticket and the magnetic inscription.

The above-noted features are believed to further distinguish over the applied art. Further, the above-noted features have not even been addressed in the Final Office Action, and thus clearly the outstanding rejections have not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to dependent claims 19 and 26. Thus, those claims further distinguish over the applied art.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicant respectfully submits each of claims 14-26 distinguishes over the applied rejection, and therefore the outstanding rejection must be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

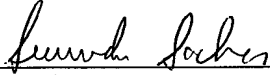
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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Rejected): Man/machine interface method for ticket processing device including a magnetic read/write station, a thermal printing station, and a controller, comprising:

- a) writing to a magnetic stripe of a configuration ticket at least certain configuration parameters of the ticket processing device to be configured, and visibly printing the configuration parameters on the configuration ticket, corresponding to magnetic inscription of the configuration parameters;
- b) inserting the configuration ticket into the processing device to be configured;
- c) reading contents of the magnetic stripe of the configuration ticket; and
- d) storing the read configuration parameters, which enables the controller to configure functioning of the ticket processing device with aid of the stored configuration parameters, and which enables an installer to have the configuration ticket on which the corresponding configuration parameters are visibly printed.

Claim 15 (Rejected): Method according to claim 14, wherein step a) includes programming the configuration ticket with the aid of a chosen programming machine, comprising at least a magnetic read/write station, a thermal printing station, and a controller.

Claim 16 (Rejected): Method according to claim 14, further comprising:

- 1) capturing information relating to activity of the ticket processing device;
- 2) storing the captured information; and
- 3) printing on a statement ticket the stored capture information.

Claim 17 (Rejected): Method according to claim 16, wherein step 3) comprises editing of cycle and incident counters superimposed on the statement ticket representing the device's mechanism and elements concerned by operational functioning.

Claim 18 (Rejected): Method according to claim 16, further comprising step 4) planning to write on the statement ticket, corresponding to the thermal printing, the statement information.

Claim 19 (Rejected): Method according to claim 14, further comprising:

- i) preparing a thermal printing reference ticket comprising at least one printed reference mark relating to horizontal, vertical framing of thermal printing or to density of a thermal print;
- ii) inserting into a ticket processing device to be adjusted the thermal printing reference ticket;
- iii) printing at least one reference scale on the thermal printing reference ticket in relation to the reference mark; and
- iv) indicating a value of coincidence between an element of the reference scale and the reference mark.

Claim 20 (Rejected): Method according to claim 14, further comprising:

- I) inserting into a ticket processing device to be adjusted a reference ticket comprising a magnetic stripe extending from transversal edges of the reference ticket and on a longitudinal side of the ticket;
- II) detecting a first transversal edge of the reference ticket;

III) writing on the magnetic stripe of the reference ticket a sequence of elementary reference inscriptions, a start of which is delivered before an arrival of the reference ticket at the magnetic read/write station and comprising a reference mark;

IV) counting a number of the written elementary reference inscriptions on the magnetic stripe of the reference ticket, up to the reference mark, and deducing from that a distance between optical detection of the transversal edge of the reference ticket and the magnetic inscription.

Claim 21 (Rejected): Method according to claim 14, further comprising a cutting position centering step, of planning to prepare a reference ticket comprising attenuation lines, the reference ticket being inserted into the ticket processing device to be adjusted and the cutting position being compared visually in relation to attenuation lines.

Claim 22 (Rejected): Method according to claim 14, further comprising a checking step in which elementary movements of the device are proceeded with function by function and/or code line by code line.

Claim 23 (Rejected): Man/machine interface device for ticket processing comprising a magnetic read/write station, thermal printing station, control means, means for writing on a magnetic stripe of a configuration ticket at least certain configuration parameters of a ticket processing device to be configured, and means for visibly printing on the configuration ticket, corresponding to a magnetic programming, the configuration parameters;

wherein the read/write station of the ticket processing device is configured to read contents of the magnetic stripe of the configuration ticket inserted into the ticket processing device to be configured; and

wherein the control means comprise storage means configured to store the read configuration parameters, which enables the control means to configure functioning of the ticket processing device with the aid of the stored configuration parameters, and which enable the installer to have the configuration ticket on which the corresponding configuration parameters are visibly printed.

Claim 24 (Rejected): Device according to claim 23, further comprising means configured to note information relating to activity of the ticket processing device, the storage means being configured to store the noted information, and the printing station configured to print onto a statement ticket the stored information.

Claim 25 (Rejected): Device according to claim 24, wherein the magnetic read/write station is configured to write on the statement ticket, corresponding to the thermal printing, the statement information.

Claim 26 (Rejected): Device according to claim 23, further comprising:

- means for preparing a reference ticket comprising a magnetic stripe extending from transversal edges of the ticket and on a longitudinal side of the ticket;
- means for detecting a first transversal edge of the reference ticket;
- means for writing on the magnetic stripe of the reference ticket a sequence of elementary reference inscriptions, a start of which is delivered before arrival of the reference ticket at the magnetic write station and comprising a reference mark; and
- means for counting a number of elementary reference inscriptions written on the magnetic stripe of the reference ticket, up to the reference mark, and deducing from that a

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distance between optical detection of the transversal edge of the ticket and the magnetic inscription.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None